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Message Text

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53
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 016759
R 231645Z DEC 74
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9419
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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S E C R E T USNATO 7083

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: THE NUCLEAR OPTION

REF: A. BRUSSELS 9844 B. LONDON 16602 C. USNATO 3560

1. IN THE NAC MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF MBFR ON DECEMBER 12, U.S., UK, NETHERLANDS, FRG AND BELGIUM EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO RAISE THE NUCLEAR OPTION WITH THE EAST AT PRESENT. THE SECRETARY RECOMMENDED THAT THE ALLIES REVIEW THE BIDDING IN THE NEW YEAR (REF A). MISSION BELIEVES THAT WASHINGTON SHOULD CONSIDER, IN ADVANCE OF ITS DECISION ON TIMING OF THE NUCLEAR OPTION, HOW THE U.S. SHOULD CONSULT WITH THE ALLIES ON THIS ISSUE.

2. THE ALLIES NEGOTIATING MANDATE (C-M(73)83) PROVIDES FOR COUNCIL AGREEMENT ON ALL QUESTIONS OF OBJECTIVES, POLICY AND STRATEGY IN MBFR. A LARGE DEGREE OF AGREEMENT AMONG THE U.S., UK AND FRG WOULD FOCUS ALLIED DEBATE AND FACILITATE EVENTUAL COUNCIL APPROVAL OF THE NUCLEAR OPTION, THUS MISSION AGREES WITH THE RECOMMENDATION IN PARA 7, REF B, THAT WHEN THE U.S. DECIDES TO MOVE ON THE NUCLEAR OPTION, THE U.S. SHOULD CONSULT AT AN EARLY DATE WITH THE UK (AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITH THE FRG) TO
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OBTAIN THEIR SUPPORT ON SUBSTANCE AND TACTICS. MISSION HAS PREVIOUSLY POINTED OUT THE CONCERN OF THE SMALLER ALLIES ABOUT TRILATERAL CONSULTATIONS OUTSIDE BRUSSELS BY THE U.S., UK AND FRG ON A MATTER RELATING TO COLLECTIVE SECURITY INTERESTS OF ALL

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THE ALLIES. NEVERTHELESS, INITIAL BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH
THE UK AND WITH THE FRG, AND THEN POSSIBLY TRILATERAL DISCUSSIONS
IN BRUSSELS JUST PRIOR TO INTRODUCING THE ISSUE INTO THE COUNCIL
SHOULD NOT RAISE THIS PROBLEM.

3. THE MISSION WISHES TO RENEW ITS RECOMMENDATION THAT THE
U.S., WHEN IT DECIDES TO INTRODUCE THE NUCLEAR OPTION INTO THE
COUNCIL, DO SO AT A RESTRICTED SESSION (PARA. 4.A OF REF C.) THE
MISSION FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT THE U.S. INTRODUCE INTO THE COUNCIL
AT THAT TIME A DETAILED PAPER ON THE NUCLEAR OPTION COMPARABLE IN
SCOPE TO THE RECENT U.S. PAPER ON AIR MANPOWER, AS WELL AS A
PROPOSAL OF THE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE WHICH THE U.S. WANT THE
COUNCIL TO APPROVE FOR USE BY THE AD HOC GROUP IN VIENNA. THIS
WOULD FACILITATE COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE NUCLEAR OPTION.

4. ONCE WASHINGTON HAS DECIDED ON THE TIMING OF THE NUCLEAR
OPTION, THE U.S. WILL WANT TO SEEK EARLY COUNCIL APPROVAL. A
DETAILED U.S. PAPER, AND A U.S. PROPOSAL OF SPECIFIC NAC
GUIDANCE FOR THE AD HOC GROUP WILL HELP IN THIS RESPECT.
NEVERTHELESS, SOME OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THE NAC
MINISTERIAL SPOKE IN TERMS OF ALLIANCE STUDY OF OPTION III.
ON THE BASIS OF PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE, WE CAN EXPECT THAT THE
SMALLER ALLIED GOVERNMENTS, THOSE WHO HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED IN
THE TRILATERAL CONSULTATIONS, WILL INSIST ON SUFFICIENT TIME TO
EXAMINE THE U.S. PROPOSAL, TO PONDER IT IN CAPITQLS, AND TO
OBTAIN ANSWERS THAT WILL ALLAY THEIR CONCERNS BEFORE TAKING DEFINI-
TIVE DECISIONS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE HOW LONG THIS WOULD
TAKE, BUT WASHINGTON SHOULD CONSIDER THIS FACTOR IN DECIDING
ON THE TIMING OF OPTION III. MISSION WOULD HAZARD AN ESTIMATE
THAT WASHINGTON SHOULD ALLOW AT LEAST ONE MONTH FOR ALLIANCE APPROVAL
OF THE NUCLEAR OPTION, GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES OF FREEDOM FROM UNAN-
TICIPATED EVENTS (SUCH AS MIDDLE EAST OR CYPRUS) WHICH OF COURSE
PREEMPT THE ATTENTION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL AND DISTRACT
ALL ALLIED GOVERNMENTS FROM THE REGULAR BUSINESS AT HAND.
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